TRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) There is no proposal at present to offer concessions in customs duties to NRIs on the basis of remittances made by them.

(b) Does not arise.

Comparative earnings of Nationalised and Foreign banks operating in the Country

31. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is big difference in the earnings of the nationalis ed banks and of foreign banks operating in the country; I!

(b) if so, what are the comparative figures of earning of these banks during the last three years; and

(c) what steps are being taken to im prove the earnings of the nationalised banks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND **THE** DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH); (a) and (b) The position of published profits earned by the foreign banks out of their Indian operations and the Indian nationalised banks during the last three years is as under:

	As on 31-12-87	As on 3-1989	As on 31-3-90
		(Rs. in crores)	
Published profits of foreign bank operating in India	66- 59	116-73	184-98
Published profits of Indian nationalised banks .	206- 96	254-16	243- 60

(*for 18 banks)

(c) The financial position and performance of the nationalised banks is reviewed by the Government and the Reserve Bank of India on an on going basis. Government and Reserve Bank of India have taken a series of measures to improve the performance and profitability of the public sector banks. These include augmentation of their capital, enhancement of service charges, rationalisation of interest rates structure and levy of commitment charges on unutilised portion of operating limits. Banks have also been advised to take measures to control expenditure on consumption of petrol, publicity etc., draw up action plans to improve their operation efficiency and take other measures to strengthen their viability and profitability by means of effective business planning and development. Banks have also been advised by Reserve Bank of India to initiate action against the officials found to be involved in cases of frauds.

Increase in Transport cost and prices of essential commodities due to hike in prices of petroleum products

32. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV SHANKER DAVE; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that as a result of increase in the prices of petroleum products due to Gulf surcharge, there will be increase in the transportation cost and also in the prices of essential, commodities; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to curb the rise in prices of essential commodities and the transportation hike?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE; MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH); fa) and (b) Government are aware of the inflationary